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 RUFHCM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE 0000  
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 RUFHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0000  
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 RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE 0000  
 RUEHMG/AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU IMMEDIATE 0000  
 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI IMMEDIATE 0000  
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 RUEHJB/USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE 0000  
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GENEVA FOR UNHRC DELEGATION

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, CU, OPRC, CONGINT  
SUBJECT: UNHRC-1: PRESS RELEASE

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, MARCH 2, 1988:
2. FASCELL, BROOMFIELD REPORT ON PROBE INTO CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

THE OUTCOME OF U.S. EFFORTS TO SECURE A UNITED NATIONS INQUIRY INTO CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS "REMAINS IN DOUBT DESPITE AN ALL-OUT EFFORT BY THE ADMINISTRATION," TWO SENIOR CONGRESSMEN REPORTED TODAY.

CONGRESSMAN DANTE B. FASCELL (D-FLA.), CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM S. BROOMFIELD (R-MICH.), THE COMMITTEE'S RANKING MINORITY MEMBER, MADE THE ASSESSMENT TODAY ON RETURNING FROM A FAST-PACED, 36-HOUR TRIP TO GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, WHERE THEY MET WITH DELEGATES TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (UNHRC). THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO VOTE SOON ON A U.S.-SPONSORED RESOLUTION LEADING TO AN INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF WIDESPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CUBA FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE FIDEL CASTRO CAME TO POWER IN 1959.

3. ON THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON, FASCELL AND BROOMFIELD ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS, FIDEL CASTRO HAS PRESIDED OVER ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST BRUTAL DICTATORSHIPS. DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD, THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAS NOT LOOKED INTO ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING CUBA. LAST YEAR, THE UNITED STATES BEGAN A CONCERTED EFFORT TO PLACE CUBA ON THE COMMISSION'S AGENDA. OUR RESOLUTION WAS REJECTED LAST YEAR BY ONE VOTE ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS.

"THIS YEAR, THE UNITED STATES HAS OFFERED A STRAIGHT-FORWARD RESOLUTION WHICH SIMPLY SEEKS AGREEMENT THAT ALLEGATIONS OF CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WILL BE SUBSTANTIVELY DISCUSSED AT NEXT YEAR'S SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. BASED ON OUR CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA YESTERDAY, WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT THE OUTCOME OF U.S. EFFORTS ON CUBA REMAINS IN DOUBT DESPITE AN ALL-OUT EFFORT BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

"OUR DIPLOMATS IN GENEVA, LED BY AMBASSADOR ARMANDO VALLADARES, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNHRC, ARE DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB. MOMENTUM IS ON OUR SIDE. HOWEVER, THIS ISSUE AND THIS VOTE IS TOO IMPORTANT FOR US TO REST. WE URGE THE PRESIDENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS, JUST AS WE PLAN TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS, TO PERSUADE OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES AND A L NATIONS OF GOOD WILL TO SUPPORT THE U.S. RESOLUTION.

"WE MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SUCCEED THIS YEAR. THAT IS WHY WE DECIDED TO GO TO GENEVA TOGETHER -- TO LEND VISIBLE, BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO SECURE PASSAGE OF THE U.S. RESOLUTION. WE HOPE OUR DIRECT MEETINGS WITH DELEGATES FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE A MATTER OF SERIOUS FOREIGN POLICY CONCERN IN THE CONGRESS.

"IN CONCERT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, OUR VISIT UNDERSCORES THE FACT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CUBA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD ARE A CONCERN OF AL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, OF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES IN CONGRESS, AND OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. WE WANT THE

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NATIONS WHICH WILL VOTE ON THE U.S. RESOLUTION TO KNOW  
JUST HOW IMPORTANT THIS ISSUE IS TO THE UNITED STATES.

"DURING OUR BRIEF VISIT TO GENEVA, WE HAD AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST OF THE  
COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION. WE WERE RECEIVED GRACIOUSLY AND CAREFULLY  
LISTENED TO BY ALL WITH WHOM WE MET. CLEARLY, THE UNITED  
STATES HAS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR RESOLUTION. WHILE  
MANY COUNTRIES PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERNS OVER  
ALLEGATIONS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, TORTURE, AND ABUSE OF  
FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA, SOME COUNTRIES SEEMED  
RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT OUR REQUEST FOR A COMMISSION REVIEW.

"SOME COUNTRIES MAY HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT CUBAN  
SUBVERSION AND TERRORIST ACTS OF RETALIATION AGAINST  
THEIR OWN COUNTRY. WE WERE ESPECIALLY DISAPPOINTED TO  
FIND THAT AMONG THOSE APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO DISCUSS  
ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CUBA ARE SOME CLOSE  
FRIENDS OF THE U.S.

"IN THE DAYS AHEAD, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO  
SEEK A FAVORABLE VOTE ON THE CUBAN RESOLUTION AT THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION THROUGH ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATION  
WITH THOSE PIVOTAL GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED ON THE  
COMMISSION. WE ALSO PLAN TO URGE OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE  
CONGRESS TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO EFFORTS TO SECURE  
PASSAGE OF THE U.S. RESOLUTION."

4. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. ARMACOST  
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